

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00023 021439Z

47

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1139

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR DAVID HUME AND QUINTON WEST

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EG

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDY

REF: CAIRO 10420 (AIDAC); STATE 279652 (AIDAC), 276101 (AIDAC)

1. EMBOFF AND HASSAN ABDULLAH, WHO DESIGNATED BY MINAGR ABDEL AKHER TO COORDINATE PREPARATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SURVEY, MET DEC 31 TO GO OVER LIST OF INFORMATION REQUESTED AND DISCUSS ACTUAL TIMES FOR JOINT SURVEY. EMBOFF EXPRESSED US HOPE THAT SURVEY WILL NOT ONLY LEAD TO IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF COOPERATION BUT WILL ALSO PRODUCE PLAN OR STUDY WHICH WILL IN ITSELF BE LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURE. HE URGED THAT MINAGR TEAM INCLUDE ACADEMICS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO GIVE BALANCE TO EGYPTIAN VIEWS.

2. ABDULLAH REPLIED THAT HIS MAIN HOPE IS THAT STUDY WILL LEAD TO IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS AND PROJECTS WHERE THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP EGYPT. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THE MINISTER HAD RAISED WITH THE AMBASSADOR TWO PROJECTS (SIC) TO WHICH THE MINISTER ATTACHES MAJOR IMPORTANCE. THE FIRST IS A DATA PROCESSING AND STORAGE CENTER FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUPPLY THE EQUIPMENT AND THE SECOND IS THE REHABILITATION OF THE MINISTRY'S HISTORICAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00023 021439Z

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM. ABDULLAH SAID HE HOPED TEAM COULD DISCUSS

THESE PROJECTS WHEN THEY COME. (ABDEL AKHER HAS MENTIONED THE DATA CENTER TO US BEFORE BUT NOT THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM).

3. ABDULLAH FURTHER SAID THAT THE DATA REQUESTED STATE 276101 WILL BE READY BY JANUARY 15 AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO WASHINGTON. HE SUGGESTED THE JOINT SURVEY TEAM ASSEMBLE IN CAIRO FEBRUARY 15 AND PLAN TO SPEND REST OF FEBRUARY MAKING SURVEY, MOST OF THE TIME IN THE FIELD, ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH'S CURRENT THINKING. EMBOFF SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT AGRICULTURE HAS IN MIND CONCERNING TIME FRAME, BUT AGREED REPORT ABDULLAH'S SUGGESTION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED - AGRICULTURE'S REACTION TO PROPOSED DATES AND LENGTH OF TEAM'S VISIT.

5. COMMENT: WITH DEPARTURE OF SALAH TEWFIK, CONCEPTUAL AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SURVEY SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. HASSAN ABDULLAH IS BUREAUCRATIC RIVAL OF TEWFIK AND OPPOSED ORIGINAL IDEA FOR SURVEY. WE CAN EXPECT SOMETHING LESS THAN INDEPTH SURVEY DISCUSSION PROGRAM AS INITIALLY ENVISAGED. THIS IS CLEARLY UNSATISFACTORY TO US AND AMBASSADOR WILL AGAIN DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH MINAG ABDEL AKHER SOON AS WE HAVE DEPT AG'S VIEWS ON HOW IT BELIEVES SURVEY SHOULD BE HANDLED.

6. FYI WE KNOW THAT SALAH TEWFIK HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SURVEY AND DO NOT DISCOUNT FACT THAT HE WILL INTERJECT HIMSELF AT SOME POINT THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER, FOR WHOM HE NOW WORKS IN INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT AS CONSULTANT. END FYI.
EILTS

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